

**REMARKS**


Claims 9-16 are allowed in this application. By this Amendment, claims 17-24 have been cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

On page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that the application in condition for allowance except for the presence of claims 17-24. As stated, claims 17-24 have been cancelled by this Amendment. As such, Applicants assert that this application is now in condition for allowance.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 9-16 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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JAO:SMS/sxb

Date: August 14, 2003

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